

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 151004Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4277

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 1765

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: FURTHER HAGAN CONTACTS

REF: PRETORIA 1623 AND 1654

1. IN PERSONAL VISIT APRIL 12 AND MEMO DATED APRIL 13, CHARLES HAGAN REPORTED ON CONVERSATIONS HE HAD WITH RHODESIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JACK MUSSET ON APRIL 10 AND APRIL 12. MUCH OF WHAT EMERGED SEEMS REPETITIVE EXCEPT THAT HAGAN SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN IT UPON HIMSELF TO TELL MUSSET INTER ALIA THAT RHODESIA IS IN NO-WIN SITUATION, THAT US MILITARY HELP COULD NOT BE EXPECTED SINCE US SUPPORTS MAJORITY RULE AND REGARDS SMITH GOVT AS ILLEGAL, AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS (PRESUMABLY WITH ANC) OUGHT TO BE RESUMED WITH TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OF NO MORE THAN 18 TO 24 MONTHS.

2. FROM WHAT HAGAN SAYS MUSSET TOLD HIM, MUSSET IS APPARENTLY WILLING TO SPLIT WITH IAN SMITH IF NECESSARY BUT REALLY HOPES (AND THINKS) SMITH WILL SIDE WITH MUSSET FACTION, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO WIN SUPPORT OF VOTERS FOR NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. MUSSET IS LOOKING FOR SOLUTION INVOLVING TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE OVER PERIOD DURING WHICH: (A) LAW AND ORDER WOULD BE MAINTAINED UNDER ARRANGEMENTS APPROVED BY NEIGHBORING BLACK STATES, POSSIBLY UNDER INTERNATIONAL

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SUPERVISION; (B) SOME SORT OF ASSISTED EMMIGRATION COULD BE

PROVIDED FOR AS SAFETY NET FOR MINORITY OF WHITES WHO WOULD DECIDE TO LEAVE; AND (C) USG WOULD INVOLVE ITSELF IN BRINGING NEGOTIATIONS TO CLOSE.

3. HAGAN SAYS MUSSET WISHES TO SEE A USG REP, OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE, AND IS WILLING GO ANYPLACE ANYTIME NECESSARY. HE HOPES WASHINGTON MIGHT SEE FIT TO SEND EMISSARY OR AUTHORIZE AMBASSADOR TO TALK WITH HIM BEFORE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO AFRICA.

4. HAGAN SAYS MUSSET SENT LETTER TO IAN SMITH BY SAFE HAND APRIL 12 WHICH HANGAN'S OTHER RHODESIAN CONTACT (ERASMUS) DESCRIBED AS URGING SMITH NOT TO PASS UP LAST CHANCE FOR SETTLEMENT. MUSSET REPORTEDLY TOLD HAGAN HE HAS ADVISED SMITH TO AVOID HOT PURSUIT OR ANY OTHER ACT THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS OFFENSIVE AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE.

5. MUSSET IDENTIFIED RHODESIAN FRONT HARDLINERS AS DES FROST AND "BOSS" LILFORD.

6. COMMENT: WHETHER OR NOT HAGAN'S INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE STORY OF WHAT HE IS TOLD BY RHODESAIN CONTACTS, IT NOW SEEMS HE IS PLAYING ROLE OF HIS OWN IN GIVING ADVICE AND POSSIBLY PURPORTING TO INTERPRET LIKELY USG ATTITUDES, DESPITE OUR CAUTION IN DEALING WITH HIM. IN CIRCUMSTANCES WE BELIEVE TIME HAS COME TO DISCOURAGE, THOUGH NOT CATEGORICALLY REFUSE, FURTHER CONTACTS BY SIMPLE EXPEDIENT OF POSTPONING APPOINTMENTS AND SHOWING NO URGENT INTEREST IN HIS CALLS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, REORGANIZATIONS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR01765
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760143-0061
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760457/aaaabwox.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 PRETORIA 1623
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: FURTHER HAGAN CONTACTS
TAGS: PFOR, RH, (HAGAN, CHARLES), (MUSSET, JACK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006